

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

Bill Number/Version/Author of Bill: HB-1341/Introduced/Leach

Completion Date of Fiscal Note:

Bill Summary:

This bill amends portions of the Parks and Wildlife Code relating to the waiver of State Park entrance fees for resident first responders, military service members, and veterans. This bill is effective September 1, 2021.

Fiscal Impact:

Texas Parks and Wildlife estimates a revenue loss to GRD-64 of approximately \$900,880 each year FY2022-2026 associated with the waivers for entrance fees to State Parks, assuming no change in visitation.

Methodology:

TPWD estimates that 25% of the Texas population visit State Parks (7,316,998 (FY20 SP visitors)/28,995,881(TX population)=25%). According to the Department of Defense (DOD), State and National Guard and the Texas Workforce Commission there are 1,725,872 active duty and veteran military in Texas. According to The Texas Commission on Fire Protection, Department of State Health Services, and Commission on Law Enforcement there are 177,208 first responders in Texas. TPWD estimates that 25% of first responders will visit State Parks (177,208*25%=44,302). The veteran enrollment rate in the Parklands Pass Program is 7.7% therefore TPWD estimates 132,892 veterans and active duty military will be included in the aforementioned population (1,725,872*7.7%=132,892). TPWD estimates the following fiscal impact to the State Park entry fees:

Active and Veteran military:	132,892
First Responders:	<u>44,302</u>
Total affected population	177,194

Average State Park entry fee:	\$5.00
Total affected population	<u>*177,194</u>
Entry fee loss	\$885,970

TPWD estimates that .48% of the Texas population currently own a Texas State Park Pass (TSPP) (137,745 (TSPP)/28,995,881(TX population)=.48%). It is estimated that there are 851 current TSPP holders that are either a military person or a first responder (177,194*.48%=851). TPWD estimates that 25% of current first responder/military TSPP holders would opt for the Parklands Pass instead (851*25%=213), therefore TPWD estimates the impact to the Texas State Park Pass would be:

Texas State Parks Pass fee:	\$70.00
Switch it Parkland Pass	<u>*213</u>
Total TSPP loss	\$14,910

Entry Fee Loss:	\$885,970
Texas State Parks Pass Loss:	<u>14,910</u>
Total Fiscal Impact	\$900,880

Technology:

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Technology Impact	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Summary of Fiscal Implications:

	Fund #	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Probable GAIN to:						
Probable (LOSS) to:						
GDR-0064	A0064	(900,880.00)	(900,880.00)	(900,880.00)	(900,880.00)	(900,880.00)
Probable SAVINGS to:						
Probable (COST) to:						
		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

FTEs

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
FTEs	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Personnel Services

Other Expenses

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Method of Financing

	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total MOF	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Local Government:

No fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.